



Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Weekly Notice, June 03, 2004

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/>

Emerald Ash Borer Report:

Michigan:

Another firewood blitz was conducted prior to the Memorial Day weekend at four rest stops in Michigan, located on I-96 (Portland), I-75 (Cleo), US-27 (Alma), and I-94 (Marshall). Fifty-four Michigan Dept. of Agriculture personnel and the entire USDA EAB program staff of 6 officers and 3 supervisors worked with the public on Thursday and Friday, traditionally the peak travel days prior to the holiday. There were 11 full-size vans filled with confiscated firewood at the end of this activity, which translated to approximately 4,871 pieces. All travelers received EAB information and 503 motorists completed a blitz survey form. Of these individuals, 60% indicated via the survey that they were aware of the ban on moving firewood in Michigan.

Maryland:

There is evidence of one adult EAB beetle emerging in Maryland. A recently built Fort Washington (Prince Georges County) apartment building used Ed's Plant World as the landscaper. Ash trees had been planted in 2002, some of which died and were replanted in 2003. When recovery activities for the out planted trees (as well as the ten MI ash trees planted around the water management pond) were ongoing, the job foreman was asked to identify which trees had been replanted in order to remove them. The Maryland Dept. of Agriculture (MDA) left ten trees that were believed to have been planted in 2002. A MDA field supervisor was checking EAB sentinel trees at this location on May 25 and decided to look at the trees that remained. As a result, he found a single D-shaped emergence hole and one gallery. All ten trees have now been removed and the rest were stripped and found to be free of EAB.

There is a similar situation at a reforestation site in Anne Arundel County at the Route 32 and 170 interchange.

This site was inspected the following day, May 26, and again a single exit hole was detected. The remaining approximately 125 ash at this site were intensively re-inspected on May 27; no additional signs of EAB activity were detected. The ash tree with the single emergence hole was removed and chipped. Remaining trees will be inspected weekly.

The half-mile buffer ash removal has been completed around Ed's Plant World. A logging company removed more than 1000 ash trees from the buffer. All trees were burned and the tops burned or chipped. Approximately 128 acres of the 500 acre buffer was forested and the 1000 trees came primarily from property that was owned by the MD National Capitol Parks & Planning Commission. All known out planted ash has been recovered and all trees stripped.

Sentinel trees have been placed at three locations: 60 around Ed's Plant World, 20 at the Ft. Washington site, and 20 at the Rt 32/170 site. These are being monitored weekly.

Virginia:

The EAB sentinel ash tree survey was set up in Fairfax County, Virginia by May 1. Eight sites are involved, with 5-10 ash trees at each site. These are serviced at least every two weeks by the Forest Pest Program unit of the Dept. of Public Works and Environmental Services. These trees are balled, burlaped, mulched, staked, and covered with tanglefoot. They are pruned every 2-3 weeks and watered via water bags to keep them stressed in order to continually release volatiles that are an attractive trap for EAB that might be in the area.

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Sudden Oak Death Report:

Trace forward surveys continue and the national survey is underway as PPQ determines the distribution of *Phytophthora ramorum*. The number of confirmed positive facilities from the trace forward, national, and other surveys is 128 in 17 states.



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The pathogen has been confirmed in plants traced forward from the initially positive Los Angeles County wholesaler remains at 102 facilities in 15 states. The numbers of nurseries or garden centers with positive trace forward samples from the wholesaler by state are California (38), Alabama (3), Arkansas (1), Florida (6), Washington (6), Oregon (9), Texas (6), Colorado (1), Georgia (13), Louisiana (5), Maryland (1), North Carolina (9), New Mexico (1), Tennessee (2), and Virginia (1). The Federal confirmed nursery protocol was implemented at these facilities.

The ER reports that 15 states are conducting National Survey activities (AL, CT, DE, FL, GA, KY, MD, MS, NJ, NC, RI, SC, TN, VA, and WV). The states have inspected 118 nurseries and collected 2,675 samples; one from NJ was confirmed positive. Other states are expected to start surveys soon. The WR reports that 10 states are conducting National Survey activities (AZ, AR, CA, ID, IA, LA, MO, OK, OR, and WA). These states have inspected 339 nurseries and have collected 11,378 samples; 14 facilities have tested positive. Twelve states continue to impose quarantine regulations over and above those ordered by PPQ on California, and in some cases Oregon, Washington or British Columbia. Four states have enacted regulations that parallel the USDA emergency order. Up-to-date information on state quarantines against California is available at the California Department of Food and Agriculture Web site: http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/phpps/pe/sod_survey/ CPHST will convene a scientific review panel on June 29, 30 and July 1 in Raleigh to review the currently available scientific data on *P. ramorum* and to discuss research and methods development needs.

PPQ will host a SOD program review on July 27 and 28 in Riverdale (changed from July 28 and 29).

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ALB Critical Issues Report:

New York:

The APHIS International Visitor Program has a request from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) in the USA, to arrange a program for

Ms. Woan-Ru Lee, Planning Division Specialist, Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine, Council of Agriculture.

The topic of her program is "US Legal Strategies in WTO/SPS Agreement-related Dispute Settlement Cases," with a principal focus on animal and plant health inspection and quarantine practices employed by APHIS. As part of her program, Ms. Woan-Ru Lee will be visiting the NY ALB Project on June 4, 2004 to obtain an overview of U.S. Asian Long Horn Beetle surveillance project and pesticide treatment of trees.

Scientists from Otis Plant Methods Center are in New York this week to begin their project activities. Studies will be conducted in the use of traps for surveys, chemical band treatment applications, and fungal band treatment applications.

Four USDA APHIS PPQ tree climbers were hired by the project. Vacancy announcements to secure the remaining 9 climbers will be advertised shortly.

Chemical treatments continue in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens. The decision by NYC Parks and Recreation to remove the public elm trees from chemical treatment application has not been resolved.

New Jersey:

The chemical treatment contract for New Jersey still has not been awarded. The program and contracting staff are giving high priority to secure a contract and complete the treatment applications before the end of June.

Illinois:

Two USDA APHIS PPQ tree climbers were hired by the project. Vacancy announcements to secure the remaining 3 climbers will be advertised shortly.

Chemical treatment applications continue in Chicago East, Chicago West, and Park Ridge.

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Environmental Monitoring:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued concurrences for all protection measures for endangered and threatened (E&T) species that might be found near cotton fields to be treated by the Boll Weevil Eradication Program this year. The process involved coordination with three regional FWS offices and several more of their field offices throughout the southern half of the United States in Program locations. Under the concurrences, Program staff with the aid of local FWS offices identifies locations of E&T species near cotton fields and implement various protection measures to eliminate potential adverse effects to the species from the eradication program. These protection measures include no-treatment buffer zones between cotton fields and protected species habitats, pesticide treatments during times when protected species are not present, and monitoring of air and water to show that harmful levels of pesticides are not reaching protected species or their habitats.

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Noxious Weeds Report:

Tropical Spiderwort

Purchase order for Methyl bromide fumigation at Cherry Farm, NC was issued on May 3, 2004 and fumigations were started the week of May 24th. A domain name was established for tropical spiderwort website at: www.nctropicalspiderwort.com.

Source: Leon Bunce

Giant Hogweed

Treatments continue in PA in the northwestern part of the state. The revised MOU for Giant Hogweed has been signed by both PA and MD. Other Eastern Plant Board states are expected to follow shortly. Once a state has signed the MOU, then the GHW Coordinator, Jason Fuller can support survey and eradication efforts in those states.

Source : Gary Clement

S. 144

The House Natural Resources committee has adopted a new substitute version of the subject legislation moving the authority for the program from Interior Dept to the Agriculture Dept. This authorizes funding (mostly for pass-through to the states) of \$50 million per year for weed control in non-crop settings. GAO has been asked by the committee to develop a report regarding potential management of such a program. They held a meeting with APHIS Noxious Weed Team members, Al Tasker, Joe Vorgetts, Erich Rudyj, and Bill Wallace to discuss this. If APHIS were to manage such a program, we would probably need to reactivate the idea for a "C-list" state/stakeholder target priority list which was dropped from the final version of the Weed Action Plan. It was felt that without funding, such a list would be counter-productive.

Weed Action Plan

RAD has forwarded a draft for the Federal Register notice of availability of the finalized version of the Weed Action Plan. Hopefully this can move forward quickly for publication. The next step will be to finalize the work plan for the regulatory changes based on the Action Plan.